ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multicast group list (i.e., destination node address list) for a network device is circularly linked such that the list can be entered at any point and traversed back to the entry point. The list traversal is then terminated as the entire list has been processed. The data packet received at the network device for transmission to the multicast group can indicate the entry point, although there are other techniques for determining the entry point. The destination node address for the entry point is skipped, that is the multicast data packet is not transmitted to the entry point destination address.

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